

# City of Socorro

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## Stingrays Rule!

There's a shout! A shot! And suddenly the water is alive with Stingrays! But there's no reason to be alarmed, it's merely some of the 115 kids spending their summer working out with the City of Socorro Stingrays swim team.

Every morning, Tuesday through Friday, the advanced swimmers wake up by jumping into the City Pool at Sedillo Park at 6:30 a.m. sharp. At 7:30 the rookie swimmers show up to work on their technique. The advanced swimmers often stay to assist with the rookies. And then, at 6:30 p.m. (that's the SAME day, evening this time!) all the swimmers converge on the pool again for another round of honing their skills. It's not just another summer at the pool. It's serious swimming.

Diedra Vinson is the coach who oversees all of it. She's been doing it for four years now and she's delighted with the progress she's seen. She tells of their first meet this summer: Rio Rancho showed up with 35 swimmers. There were 80 events. In some heats, all the competitors were from Socorro. "We've always been the underdog but we've had such great growth. I almost felt sorry for [Rio Rancho], but then one of the parents reminded me, we deserve this!" Deserve it because Socorro, too, was once a fledgling team. But now, they're a force to be reckoned with.

Kids can swim with the team as soon as they are able to make it from one edge of the pool to the other (the short way—25 meters) without touching the bottom. For some, that's as young as 4 or 5

years. Of course their technique isn't perfect, but they have time to work on it.



Some younger swimmers work out with the kickboards

By the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, students are swimming year-round, practicing at the NM Tech pool in the winter after the city pool closes. It's good exercise, it keeps them busy. "They become part of the family, they belong to something," says Vinson.

It costs \$50 to participate in the summer swim program, but that's a bargain. For that price, every swimmer gets a competition suit, goggles, cap, t-shirt, medal, insurance, and their fee to belong to the League is paid. The City subsidizes it in part, parents run the concession stand at home meets and do other fund raisers, and Vinson wheels and deals to try to cut costs. This year Creative Graphics made the t-shirts, trading a discounted price for the privilege of putting their logo on the back of the shirt.

Parent participation is key, and Vinson reports that their enthusiasm helps fuel the program. Besides helping their kids get to the early morning practices on time, parents volunteer to time races, work on raffles, sell goods at the concession stand and cheer loudly at the meets, both home and away.



Advanced swimmers learn to do flip turns.

This summer the swimmers will have the opportunity to participate in at least 7 meets. The District meet is July 23 at Riverpoint Wellness Center in Albuquerque, followed by the state finals on Saturday, July 25, at the West Mesa Aquatic Center.

All meets are open to the public. If you want to support Socorro Stingrays, show up and, as Coach Vinson says, “Yell loud, yell often.”

## See Santa Fe this Summer!

The trip to Santa Fe just got a whole lot easier, thanks to the addition of more Transit runs to the Rail Runner Station in Belen on Saturdays. The shuttle will leave Sedillo Park at 9:45 a.m., 12:50 p.m., 6:00 p.m. and 7:45 p.m. It will meet the train at 10:22 a.m., 1:42 p.m., 6:42 p.m., and 8:32 p.m. Shuttle rides cost \$1 each way and reservations 24 hours in advance are required. For more information, and to make reservations, call RoseMary at 835-1501. Roundtrip to Santa Fe on the Rail runner on Saturday is \$7.00. For more Rail Runner information see their website at <http://nmrailrunner.com/>

## Employee Anniversaries

<b>Huskie Monte</b>	<b>5 years</b>
<b>David Chavez</b>	<b>10 years</b>
<b>Raymond Montoya</b>	<b>10 years</b>

## New Wheels for Socorro Law Enforcement

Socorro Police Chief George Van Winkle is proud to show off the latest additions to the Socorro force: 3 new cruisers, one of which runs on natural gas. “We’ve been waiting for these cars,” says Van Winkle. “Many of ours have 75,000 to 120,000 miles on them.”

That may not sound like much, but consider that the bulk of these miles are driven within Socorro City limits, with the stop-and-go required to navigate city neighborhoods. Two of the cars were budgeted for this year. The third was bought with grant money. Two more are in a request to the Justice Department.

The natural gas cruiser came from Las Cruces. It will be used by the School Resource Officer and will be easily recognized by the Warrior logo. Watch for them to be in action soon.



Officer Gilbert Padilla shows off one of the new vehicles.

Photo is courtesy of Socorro Police Department.

## City Council

<b>Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez</b>	<b>Gordy Hicks</b>
<b>Toby Jaramillo</b>	<b>Donald Monette</b>
<b>Michael Olguin, Jr.</b>	<b>Ernest Pargas, Jr.</b>
<b>Peter D. Romero</b>	<b>Chuck Zimmerly</b>
<b>Ravi Bhasker, Mayor</b>	
<b>Pat Salome, City Clerk</b>	